

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 6, 2006, a restriction has been made to the following three groups of claims:

- I. Claims 21-37 and 48, drawn to a method of making an implant, classified in class 424, subclass 422;
- II. Claims 38-43 and 49, drawn to a method of manufacture of an implant, classified in class 424, subclass 422; and
- III. Claims 44, 50 and 51 drawn to a method of treating a patient, classified in class 424, subclass 422.

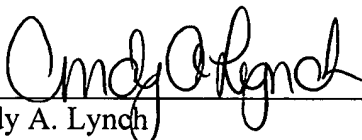
Applicant hereby elects Group I, Claims 21-37 and 48.

CONCLUSION

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-3100.

Dated: April 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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